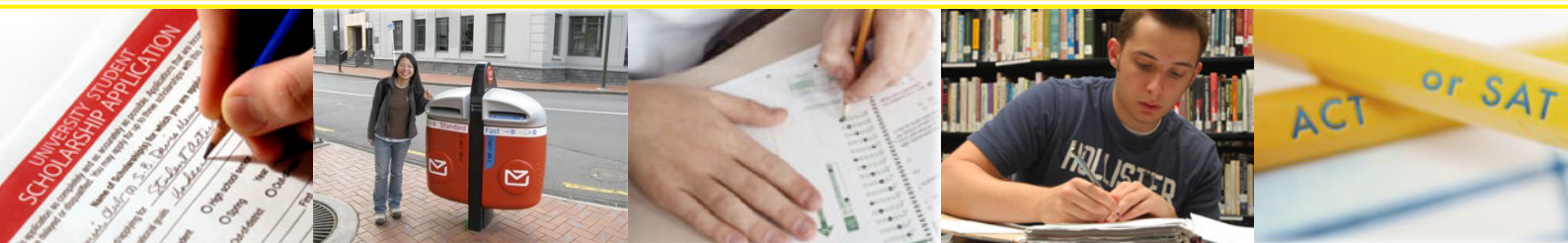


# Admissions Process



[www.EducationUSA.state.gov](http://www.EducationUSA.state.gov)

## EducationUSA Advising Centers

Fulbright New Zealand - [educate@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:educate@fulbright.org.nz) / (04) 494 1504

Consulate General of the United States of America - [aucklandeducation@state.gov](mailto:aucklandeducation@state.gov) / (09) 303 2724



### ★ EducationUSA Advising Center

Fulbright New Zealand  
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Tel +64 4 494 1504  
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Email: [kara@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:kara@fulbright.org.nz)  
Webpages: [www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz)

Consulate General of the United States of America  
23 Customs Street East  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Contact: Christy Wall  
Phone: +64-9-303-2724 x2966  
Fax: +64-9-303-1069  
Email: [Aucklandeducation@state.gov](mailto:Aucklandeducation@state.gov)  
Web pages: <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov>

The process of applying to study in the US takes far longer to organise than the application process for study in New Zealand. For more detailed information about each of the steps outlined here, please contact your EducationUSA Advising Center and ask for the "Guide to Planning US College & University Admissions" or visit our website for many useful resources to download. <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov>

**Start Early**



## A planning timetable for organising admission

The academic year in the US commences anytime from late August to mid-October, depending on the school. The following suggested admissions timeline starts 12 to 18 months before the commencement of studies. Mid-year admission (which would allow you to begin classes in January or February) may be possible, but you'll need to check directly with the colleges concerned.

Each college has its own requirements for admission, so these are general guidelines only. Consult the colleges for more detailed information about their specific admission requirements.

### 18-12 Months prior to High School Graduation

- Initially identify 10 to 15 colleges that meet the criteria you have identified as important to you. The EducationUSA center offers many resources to help you find the right fit. A list of online college search engines is also available at our website: [www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)
- Consult Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education to ensure that the institutions to which you're applying are regionally accredited: [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)
- Consult with each college about opportunities for financial aid. Begin to investigate possible sources of financial assistance outside the college system and search the Funding US Study database at [www.fundingusstudy.org](http://www.fundingusstudy.org).



### 12-8 Months prior to Graduation

- Determine which standardized admissions tests the colleges require and register for them. Do this as early as possible and request that your scores be sent to the institutions to which you're thinking about applying. Test scores must be sent to the schools directly from the testing agency. Tests you may be required to take include the Standardized Admissions Test (SAT) and TOEFL test for non-native English speakers.
- Determine which colleges seem most promising and most closely match your interests, needs and capabilities. Submit all required items a month or so before the deadline. It is to your advantage to apply early, so do so if you possibly can.
- Choose 4 or 5 schools to which you will actually apply. It's best to apply to more than one school, but be careful in applying to more than five.
- Read the materials sent to you by any funding sources and determine whether you meet their selection criteria. Complete and submit applications for those which you're eligible by the deadline.
- Take any standardized test(s) you may need for admissions.
- Complete the college admissions applications carefully and legibly. Pay special attention to the application essay and any required letter(s) of recommendation as this is a very important part of the application.
- Carefully and promptly respond to all inquiries you receive from the colleges to which you've applied. Many schools send offers of admission only in March and April.

### 6-4 Months prior to Graduation

- Once you've received an admission decision from each college, you'll need to decide which college you would like to attend. Each college that offers you admission should give an indication of how much, if any, financial assistance they are prepared to offer you. Your decision should take this into account.
- Write to the college you decide to attend to let them know that you will be accepting their offer of admission. Also write to any other colleges that offered you admission to let them know that you will not be taking up their offer of admission.
- Apply for a student visa once you've received an I-20 or DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility) from the college you will be attending. For information about applying for a US visa, you should refer to <http://NewZealand.usembassy.gov> and click on "visas to the US".
- Make travel arrangements. It is recommended that you wait until after you have been issued a visa before purchasing tickets for travel. Contact the Education Advising Centre for Pre-Departure information.

